

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving data from a source;

producing a first data stream comprising said data in the form of a series of bursts for broadcast in a first cell of a cellular communication system;

producing a second data stream comprising the series of bursts for broadcast in a second cell of the cellular communication system, including determining an additional data limit on the basis of first and second data transmission rates associated with the first and second cells respectively such that, when an amount of additional data equal to said additional data limit is added to each burst in the series prior to broadcast, the start times of corresponding bursts broadcast in the first and second cells are synchronized;

and, if the additional data limit is greater than zero,

receiving additional data from an additional data source and

incorporating an amount of additional data less than or equal to said additional data limit to each burst in the second data stream;

broadcasting the first data stream in the first cell; and

broadcasting the second data stream in the second cell.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein said amount of additional data is interleaved with said data in each burst.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein an additional burst comprising said amount of additional data is appended to each burst.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein start times of additional bursts broadcast in the second cell are synchronized with start times of bursts of said additional data broadcast in a third cell.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a series of data bursts from a source;

outputting a first data stream comprising the series of data bursts, including determining an additional data limit on the basis of first and second data transmission rates associated with first and second cells of a cellular communication system respectively such that, when an amount of additional data equal to said additional data limit is added to each burst in the series in the first data stream prior to broadcast, the start times of bursts broadcast in the first cell are synchronized with the start times of corresponding bursts in the second data stream when broadcast in the second cell

and, if the additional data limit is greater than zero,

receiving additional data from an additional data source and

multiplexing an amount of additional data less than or equal to said additional data limit with each data burst in the first data stream, said amount being less than or equal to said additional data limit; and

broadcasting the first data stream in the first cell.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said amount is equal to the additional data limit.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said amount of additional data is interleaved with said data in each data burst.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said amount of additional data is appended to each data burst.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the start times are synchronized so that transmissions of corresponding bursts in the first and second cells begin simultaneously.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the start times are synchronized so that there is a fixed time period between the start time of a burst in the first cell and the start time of a corresponding burst in the second cell.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the additional data comprises local data associated with the first cell.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the additional data comprises padding.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the cellular communication system is a DVB network.

18. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving data from a source,

producing a first data stream for broadcast in a first cell of a cellular communication system, the first data stream comprising said data in the form of a first series of bursts; and

determining an additional data limit based on data transmission rates associated with the first cell and a second cell of the cellular communication system such that, when an amount of additional data equal to said additional data limit is added to each burst in the series in a second data stream that includes the series of bursts, first time intervals between bursts in the first data stream when broadcast in the first cell are equal to second time intervals between corresponding bursts in the second data stream when broadcast in the second cell;

if said additional data limit is less than or equal to zero, producing a second data stream comprising the series of bursts;

if said additional data limit is greater than zero, producing a second data stream comprising a series of modified bursts, wherein each burst comprises said data and an amount of additional data that is less than or equal to the additional data limit.

19-27 (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive data from a source;

a first data stream generator configured to produce a first data stream for transmission in a first cell of a cellular communication system, the first data stream comprising said data in the form of a series of bursts;

a second data stream generator configured to produce a second data stream for transmission in a second cell of the cellular communication system, wherein the second data stream comprises the series of bursts, and to determine an additional data limit on the basis of first and second data transmission rates associated with the first and second cells such that, when said an amount of additional data equal to said additional data limit is added to each burst in the series in the first data stream, start times of bursts in said data stream when broadcast in the first cell are synchronized with start times of corresponding bursts in a second data stream broadcast in the second cell and to, in the event that the additional data limit amount is greater than zero, receive additional data from an additional data source and add an amount of additional data less than or equal to said additional data limit to each burst in the second data stream so that, when the first and second data streams are broadcast in the first and second cells respectively, start times of bursts in the second data stream are synchronized with start times of corresponding bursts in the first data stream.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive a data stream from a source, said data stream comprising a series of data bursts;

a burst rate adjuster configured to determine an additional data limit on the basis of first and second data transmission rates associated with first and second cells of a cellular

communication system such that, when said an amount of additional data equal to said additional data limit is added to each burst in the series in the data stream, start times of bursts in said data stream when broadcast in the first cell are synchronized with start times of corresponding bursts in a second data stream broadcast in the second cell;

a multiplexer arranged to multiplex the series of data bursts with bursts of additional data to produce a modified data stream in the event that the additional data limit amount is greater than zero, wherein each burst of additional data comprises an amount of additional data that is less than or equal to said additional data limit.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, configured so that said amount is equal to said additional data limit.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, configured to synchronize the start times so that the transmissions of corresponding bursts in the first and second cells begin simultaneously.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, configured to synchronize the start times so that there is a fixed time period between the start time of a burst in the first cell and the start time of a corresponding burst in the second cell.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, configured to interleave additional data with said data in each burst in the series.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, configured to append an additional burst comprising said amount of additional data to each burst in the series.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 35, further configured so that start times of said additional bursts when broadcast in the second cell are synchronized with start times of corresponding bursts of additional data broadcast in a third cell.

37. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising:

a receiving device;

a first network; and

an apparatus according to claim 30.

38. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 37, wherein said first network is a DVB network.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 37, wherein the receiving device is configured to receive data from the first network and to enable telephone communications via a second network.

41. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising:

a receiving device;

a first network; and

an apparatus according to claim 35;

wherein the receiving device is configured to selectively receive a modified series of bursts by suspending data reception during a time slot associated with the series of bursts so that the additional bursts are not received.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, configured to interleave additional data with said data in each burst in the series.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, configured to append an additional burst comprising said amount of additional data to each burst in the series.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, further configured so that start times of said additional bursts when broadcast in the second cell are synchronized with start times of corresponding bursts of additional data broadcast in a third cell.

45. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising:

a receiving device;

a first network; and

an apparatus according to claim 28.

46. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 45, wherein said first network is DVB network.

47. (Previously Presented) A communication system according to claim 45, wherein the receiving device is configured to receive data from the first network and to enable telephone communications via a second network.

48. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising:

a receiving device;

a first network; and

an apparatus according to claim 43;

wherein in the receiving device is configured to selectively receive a modified series of bursts by suspending data reception during a time slot associated with the series of bursts so that the additional bursts are not received.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)